

objectionable. Entry of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the container has a volume less than or equal to 100 ml.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 3], further comprising the step of expelling the liquid mixture from the container after extraction of nucleic acids.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], further comprising washing the solid phase to remove bound materials other than nucleic acid.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], further comprising removing the nucleic acids from the solid phase by eluting with a solvent.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], further comprising reversibly drawing a second liquid mixture over the solid phase so that nucleic acid in the second liquid mixture binds to the solid phase.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], further comprising homogenising the liquid mixture prior to drawing the liquid mixture over the solid phase.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the reversible suction means is a syringe.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the container is a disposable cartridge.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 10], wherein a syringe is the container and reversible suction means and the solid phase is contained in the barrel of the syringe.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 9],

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wherein the container is a pipette and the solid phase is located in the tip of the pipette.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 9], wherein the container is an extraction cartridge.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the solid phase can move inside the container.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the container and reversible suction means are releasably connected.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the solid phase comprises porous or non-porous beads.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 16 [17 or claim 18], wherein the beads are derivatised so that they are capable of selectively binding nucleic acid.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 16 [any one of claims 16 to 18], wherein the beads are retained in the container by a frit, porous membrane or mesh.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the container has an inner surface having ridges or spirals to cause mixing between liquid mixture and solid phase.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 14], wherein the solid phase comprises one or more spaced apart discs or membranes, each having holes with a diameter of at least 0.1 mm, or cut away sections.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein a by-pass channel runs through the solid phase.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [any one of the preceding

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claims], wherein the solid phase has a pore size of greater than 0.1 mm.

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